

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A bush cutting machine comprising:

an operation rod having a front end and a rear end;

a cutter blade mounted to the front end of the operation rod for undergoing rotation;

a prime mover mounted to the rear end of the operation rod for rotationally driving the cutter blade;

a throttle lever pivotally mounted with respect to the operation rod for controlling an opening degree of a throttle valve of the prime mover to adjust a rotational speed of the cutter blade;

a main wire having a first end and a second end, the first end being connected to the throttle lever so that pivotal movement of the throttle lever pulls the second end of the main wire in a pulling direction to move the main wire from a standby condition to an operative condition;

a throttle wire having a first end and a second end, the first end being connected to the throttle valve of the prime mover so that when the second end of the main wire is pulled in the pulling direction the second end of the throttle wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction to move the throttle wire from a standby condition in which the throttle valve is in a closed state to an operative condition to control the opening degree of the throttle valve;

a brake unit for stopping rotation of the cutter blade in a braking condition of the brake unit;

a brake wire having a first end and a second end, the first end being connected to the brake unit so that when the second end of the main wire is pulled in the pulling direction the second end of the brake wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction to move the brake wire from a standby condition in which the brake unit is in the braking condition to an operative condition in which the brake unit is released from the braking condition to allow rotation of the cutter blade; and

a link mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever to adjust the degree of opening of the throttle valve of the prime mover and to release the brake unit from the braking condition when each of the main wire, the throttle wire and the brake wire is in the operative condition, the link mechanism having a generally U-shaped relay member and a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition, the U-shaped relay member having a first lug portion connected to a the second end of the main wire and a second lug portion connected to a the second end of the throttle wire and a the second end of the brake wire, the first and second lug

portions forming opposite and confronting leg portions of the U-shaped relay ~~member.~~ member; and

biasing means for biasing each of the main wire, the throttle wire, and the brake wire to the corresponding standby condition.

2. - 4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 1; further comprising a handle mounted on the operation rod, and an operating lever unit mounted on the handle and serving as a grip of the handle; wherein the link mechanism is disposed in the operating lever unit.

6. - 10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 1; wherein the relay member undergoes linear reciprocating movement in accordance with movement of the main wire, the throttle wire, and the brake wire.

12. (currently amended) A bush cutting machine according to ~~claim 6;~~ claim 1; wherein the delay mechanism comprises the second ends of the throttle and brake wires connected to the second lug portion of the relay member so that when the throttle lever is not operated, the second end of the throttle wire is spaced from the second lug portion

at a distance greater than a space between the second end of the brake wire and the second lug portion.

13. (currently amended) A bush cutting machine comprising:

a prime mover having a throttle valve;

a rotary cutter blade;

a transmission member for transmitting drive power from the prime mover to the cutter blade to rotationally drive the cutter blade;

a throttle lever for controlling an opening degree of the throttle valve of the prime mover to adjust a rotational speed of the cutter blade;

a brake unit for stopping rotation of the cutter blade in a braking condition of the brake unit;

a generally U-shaped relay member mounted to undergo movement by actuation of the throttle lever to adjust the opening degree of the throttle lever and to release the brake unit from the braking condition, the relay member having a first portion and a second portion disposed opposite the first portion, the first and second portions defining confronting leg portions of the U-shaped relay member;

a first wire having a first end connected to the throttle lever and a second end connected to the first portion of the relay member so that pivotal movement of the throttle

lever pulls the second end of the first wire in a pulling direction to move the first wire from a standby condition to an operative condition;

a second wire having a first end connected to the throttle valve of the prime mover and a second end connected to the second portion of the relay member so that when the second end of the first wire is pulled in the pulling direction the second end of the second wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction to move the second wire from a standby condition in which the throttle valve is in a closed state to an operative condition to control the opening degree of the throttle valve;

a third wire having a first end connected to the brake unit and a second end connected to the second portion of the relay member so that when the second end of the first wire is pulled in the pulling direction the second end of the third wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction to move the third wire from a standby condition in which the brake unit is in the braking condition to an operative condition in which the brake unit is released from the braking condition to allow rotation of the cutter ~~blade-~~ blade;

biasing means for biasing each of the first wire, the second wire, and the third wire to the corresponding standby condition; and

a delay mechanism including the relay member and actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition.

14. - 15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 13; wherein the relay member undergoes linear reciprocating movement in accordance with movement of the first wire, the throttle wire, and the brake wire upon actuation of the throttle lever.

17. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 13; further comprising a tubular operation rod enclosing the transmission member; a handle mounted on the tubular operation rod; and an operating lever unit mounted on the handle and serving as a grip of the handle.

18. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 17; wherein the relay member is disposed in the operating lever unit.

19. (canceled).

20. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 13; wherein the delay mechanism comprises

the second ends of the second and third wires connected to the second portion of the relay member so that when the throttle lever is not operated, the second end of the second wire is spaced from the second portion of the relay member at distance greater than a space between the second end of the third wire and the second portion of the relay member.

21. - 22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended) A bush cutting machine comprising:

a prime mover having a throttle valve;

a rotary cutter blade;

a transmission member for transmitting drive power from the prime mover to the cutter blade to rotationally drive the cutter blade;

a throttle lever for controlling an opening degree of the throttle valve of the prime mover to adjust a rotational speed of the cutter blade;

a brake unit for stopping rotation of the cutter blade in a braking condition of the brake unit;

a relay member mounted to undergo movement by actuation of the throttle lever to adjust the opening degree of the throttle lever and to release the brake unit from the braking condition;

a first wire having a first end connected to the throttle lever and a second end connected to the first portion of the relay member so that pivotal movement of the throttle lever pulls the second end of the first wire in a pulling direction to move first wire from a standby condition to an operative condition;

a second wire having a first end connected to the throttle valve of the prime mover and a second end connected to the second portion of the relay member so that when the second end of the first wire is pulled in the pulling direction the second end of the second wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction to move the second wire from a standby condition in which the throttle valve is in a closed state to an operative condition to control the opening degree of the throttle ~~valve;~~ and valve;

a third wire having a first end connected to the brake unit and a second end connected to the second portion of the relay member so that when the second end of the first wire is pulled in the pulling direction the second end of the third wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction to move the third wire from a standby condition in which the brake unit is in the braking condition to an operative condition in which the brake unit is released from the braking condition to allow rotation of the cutter ~~blade.~~ blade;

biasing means for biasing each of the first wire,
the second wire, and the third wire to the corresponding
standby condition; and

a delay mechanism including the relay member and
actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the
throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the
brake unit from the braking condition.

24. (canceled).

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Delete the abstract now of record and insert therefor the new abstract submitted herewith on a separate sheet.